

[Omitted here is information unrelated to Nigeria.]

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

President/Kissinger

1/15/70 6:10 pm

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K: I had a call from Norman Cousins about Biafra. He felt you could gain prestige with groups you do not generally have access. He will help. I gave him a rundown on the weekend.

President: Was he pleased? Hope he knows that the State Department wasn't happy about that.

K: Yes, I told him. He thought that if you called a conference of private and governmental organizations, it would make a good impression.

President: After the State of the Union?

K: He thought next Monday or Tuesday.

President: Fine. I want to be sure we take leadership on humanitarian problems. They are savages. I don't care about the anarchists, the Communists, the fascists. I have as little use for Hitler as for Stalin.

K: A lot of black groups say if we do something for Biafra

President: Ask Ferguson

K: I will. Cousins feels he can raise \$50 million.

President: What about State?

K: Richardson will carry the ball.

President: Rogers should be in on it and it would strengthen him.

Don't worry about Gowon because he wants aid. If they don't play we don't have an Ambassador -- we'll just take him out of there. And Wilson better be careful because British aren't happy.

K: I will wait for Cousins proposal. He's sending it by wire tonight. It will give you a lot of credit and standing with groups. You are going to get into major problems with safe guards.

I think we should have a Friday morning meeting on safeguards. Smith is difficult. He should plead. He thinks you are about to abandon...

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